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**Subject:** News from the American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:25:31 AM

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## INNOVATION . . . INFORMATION . . . INSPIRATION

July 15, 2015

### In this Issue



Former Ambassador and Former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn is shown here at the Round Table's 2013 Next Practices Convening where he received the William Lloyd Garrison Public Service Award for Moral Courage. MHSA President Joe Finn is also shown.

Ray Flynn was elected the 46th Mayor of Boston on November 15, 1983 and served three terms, to 1993.

His career in public service included four terms in the Massachusetts



Democratic Mayor of Boston Ray Flynn called attention to the Republican Governor's history of response to his poorest neighbors.

Flynn was recognized by the American Round Table to Abolish Homelessness and the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance with the William Lloyd Garrison Public Service Award for Moral Courage in 2013. The occasion was the Next Practices in Ending Homelessness Convening at Harvard University.

Round Table President Philip Mangano cited Flynn's leadership in Boston and his role on the national stage in helping garner support for the successful passage of the Stewart B. McKinney Act in 1987, including sleeping out at the U.S. Capitol with the late activist Mitch Snyder. Mangano noted Flynn's "relentless and initiatory moral suasion in his personal and professional life on behalf of our poorest neighbors" and his support and participation in advocacy to advance the solution of housing for homelessness in the creation of

The Boston Mayor who brought homelessness to the agenda of the nation's mayors in 1991 this week drew Boston's attention to the longstanding commitment on the issue of Massachusetts' new Governor Charlie Baker. Writing in the July 12, 2015 Boston Herald, former Ambassador to the Vatican and former

Legislature  
from 1971 -1978.

From 1978 - 1983, he served three terms on the Boston City Council. He was chairman of the committees on Housing and Neighborhood Development, Neighborhood Services, the Special Committee on School Matters, Government Relations, and Government Finance.

He served as President of the United States Conference of Mayors in 1991 -1992.

In his leadership role, he brought issues of poverty, hunger, and homelessness to the national agenda, as well as focusing on the needs of the homeless mentally ill.

He worked for the passage of the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in 1987, and he was the only Mayor to speak at the 1989 HOUSING NOW march in Washington.



the Special Initiative to House Homeless Mentally Ill Persons (noted in Flynn's column) and the Housing Now! March in Washington.

Flynn (above center) is shown above serving the Thanksgiving Dinner he mentions in his column below with Philip Mangano (left) and Governor Baker (right).

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July 12, 2015

### **Flynn: Charlie Baker no 'Johnny come lately' on homeless issue**

A well-known political and media consultant bumped into me at a Red Sox game the other day and said, "Hey Ray, what is it with Baker? A Republican who's trying to act like a Democratic, huh? He's trying to steal your issue."

I didn't have to ask what issue he was referring to, I knew he was talking about the homeless.

Gov. Charlie Baker in the recent budget has provided more resources for the homeless than any governor in Massachusetts history. It couldn't come at a more critical time for our state, because the number of homeless in Boston has been increasing dramatically in the last 20 years.

Some have been saying that Baker is a newcomer to the homeless issue, but that's just not true.

People like Phil Mangano from America's Roundtable to Abolish Homeless and myself who have been at the forefront of this issue know about Charlie Baker's passion on the issue going back many years.

Just after Baker was elected governor and before he was sworn in, we both were invited to the Boston Rescue Mission on Kingston Street for Thanksgiving Day dinner with a couple of hundred street people. Baker told the story about meeting me for the first time, when he became secretary of administration and finance in the Weld administration. I told him about "Jimmy the Broom," who died on the freezing streets of Boston. I knew Jimmy personally and I promised myself that this was never going to happen again, but I needed the governor's help.

I knew way back then that Charlie Baker had the passion and emotion to make a difference on behalf of our homeless. And no state or city worked harder with our committed homeless shelter providers to do just that.

So when my political consultant friend said what he did, I responded,

"Charlie is no Johnny come lately" when it comes to helping our homeless. When Phil Mangano, a couple of hundred Boston street people and I saw a tear come to Charlie's eye last Thanksgiving while he was talking about "Jimmy The Broom," I knew we had a governor with a big heart and a lot of concern for people without a home or hope.

Just one more thing, Governor, how about calling the homeless line item in the state budget that you and the Legislature should be proud for enacting the "Jimmy The Broom" Homeless Law. Let the country know what we stand for in Massachusetts.

*Raymond L. Flynn is a former mayor of Boston and former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.*

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